

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2008

Committee: Senate Committee on
Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.C.R No. 72, Requesting that the Department of Education conduct a feasibility study to examine various impacts of a longer school day on kindergarten through grade twelve students.

Purpose: To determine whether an extension of the school day, designed to provide increased academic and socio-cultural opportunities for students in kindergarten through grade twelve, is an affordable and sound investment for the State of Hawaii.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does support S.C.R. 72. The Department supports the need to re-assess the appropriate level of instructional time allotted and the proper learning environments offered within the school day. The Department concurs with the fact-finding approach and the wisdom in the proactive stance. A well-designed and executed feasibility study would help frame future policy discussions related to an extended school day and to promote well-informed

policy decision-making. To ensure that the findings from such a study are construed as credible, we recommend the study be carefully developed and conducted by an independent and well-respected research organization, and it would incur costs that have neither been budgeted nor appropriated. Finally, should such a study be undertaken, the Department recommends that fact finding efforts integrate the examination of an extended or modified school year be considered as an option.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.